

What is claimed is:

1. A system, comprising:
 - a Central Processing Unit (CPU) operatively connected to an external memory and one or more peripherals; and,
 - a Physics Processing Unit (PPU).
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the CPU comprises a processing unit resident in a personal computer.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the CPU comprises a processing unit resident in a game console.
4. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) operatively connected to the CPU.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the CPU and PPU communicate via at least one selected from a group of physical interfaces consisting of: USB, USB2, Firewire, PCI, PCI-X, PCI-Express, and Ethernet.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the CPU further comprises a PPU driver; and, wherein the PPU further comprises a Processor Control Engine (PCE) controlling a physics simulation and communicating with the PPU driver.
7. The system of claim 6, wherein the PCE comprises programming code stored in a memory resident within the PPU.
8. The system of claim 6, wherein the PPU further comprises:
 - a Physics Processing Memory (PPM); and
 - a Data Movement Engine (DME) responsive to commands received from the PCE and executing programs adapted to perform data movement operations.

9. The system of claim 8, further comprising:

a Floating Point Engine (FPE) responsive to commands from at least one of the PCE and the DME, and executing floating point computations.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the PPM comprises a high-speed memory and the PPU further comprises a high-speed data bus connecting the high-speed memory to at least one of the DME and the FPE.

11. The system of claim 10, further comprising:

a memory interface unit managing data communication between the high-speed data bus and the high-speed memory.

12. The system of claim 10, further comprising:

a processor bus connecting the PCE with at least one physical interface to the CPU.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the processor bus is separate from the high-speed bus and connected to the high-speed bus via a bridge.

14. The system of claim 9, further comprising:

an Inter-Engine Memory (IEM) receiving data from the PPM in response to commands from the DME.

15. The system of claim 14, further comprising:

an Inter-Engine Register (IER) adapted to initiate DME operation in response to a PCE command.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein the IEM is a multiple bank memory adapted to support parallel threads of execution.

17. The system of claim 14, further comprising:

a multiple register Inter-Engine Register (IER) adapted to initiate DME operation in responsive to a PCE command; and,

wherein the IEM is a multiple bank memory adapted to support two parallel threads of execution.

18. The system of claim 14, further comprising:

a Scratch Pad Memory (SPM) receiving data from the PPM in response to commands from the DME.

19. The system of claim 9, further comprising:

a DME control interface comprising:

a first packet queue receiving command packets from the PCE and communicating command packets to the DME; and,

a second packet queue receiving response packets from the DME and communicating the response packets to the PCE.

20. The system of claim 16, wherein the IEM further comprises a first bank accessible to the DME and a second bank accessible to the FPE; and,

wherein the DME further comprises:

a first unidirectional crossbar connected to the first bank;

a second unidirectional crossbar connected to the second bank; and,

a bi-directional crossbar connecting first and second crossbars to at least one of the PPM or SPM.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the DME further comprises:
a first Address Generation Unit providing Read address data to the first crossbar; and,
a second Address Generation Unit providing Write address data to the second crossbar.
22. The system of claim 10, wherein the FPE further comprises:
a plurality of floating point operation execution units.
23. The system of claim 22, wherein the plurality of floating point execution units are selectively grouped together to form a vector floating point unit.
24. The system of claim 23, wherein the FPE performs floating point operations in responsive to a Very Long Instruction Word (VLIW).
25. A game system, comprising:
a host, wherein the host comprises an external memory and a peripheral operatively connected to a Central Processing Unit (CPU); and,
a Physics Processing Unit (PPU) operatively connected to the CPU;
wherein the host stores a main game program and a PPU driver; and,
wherein the PPU driver manages all communication between the PPU and the CPU.
26. The game system of claim 25, wherein the host further stores:
a first Application Programming Interface (API) associated with the game program;
a second API associated with the PPU driver.

27. The game system of claim 26, wherein the second API is callable by the first API.

28. The game system of claim 27, wherein the host further comprises a Graphics Processor Unit (GPU), wherein the host further stores:

a GPU driver and a third API associated with the GPU driver;

wherein the second API is callable by the first and third APIs.

29. The game system of claim 25, wherein the PPU comprises a dedicated vector processor adapted to perform parallel floating point operations.

30. The game system of claim 29, wherein the PPU further comprises a high-speed memory.

31. A personal computer system (PC) executing a game program on hardware comprising a memory, a peripheral, and a general purpose microprocessor, the PC further comprising:

a dedicated Physics Processing Unit (PPU) adapted to compute physics simulation data for incorporation within execution of the game program.

32. The PC of claim 31, wherein the PPU is operatively connected within the PC by means of a expansion board.

33. The PC of claim 32, further comprising a Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) adapted to compute graphics data for incorporation within execution of the game program.

34. The PC of claim 31, wherein the general purpose microprocessor generates a command in response to execution of the game program and communicates the command to the PPU.

35. The PC of claim 34, wherein the PPU and general purpose microprocessor communicate via at least one selected from a group of physical interfaces consisting of USB, USB2, Firewire, PCI, PCI-X, PCI-Express, and Ethernet.

36. The PC of claim 35, wherein the PPU comprises a vector processor adapted to run parallel floating point operations.

37. The PC of claim 34, wherein the command is a Very Long Instruction Word.